

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1638

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley

February 9, 2012

An act to amend Section 41500 of the Education Code, relating to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1638, as introduced, Brownley. Education finance: block grant funding.

Existing law establishes the pupil retention block grant, school safety consolidated competitive grant, teacher credentialing block grant, professional development block grant, targeted instructional improvement block grant, and school and library improvement block grant. Existing law authorizes a school district or county office of education to expend in a fiscal year up to 15% of the amount apportioned for the school safety consolidated competitive grant, professional development block grant, targeted instructional improvement block grant, or school and library improvement block grant for any other programs for which the school district or county office of education is eligible for funding, not to exceed 120% of the amount of state funding allocated in a fiscal year to the school district or county office of education for purposes of the program to which funds are transferred.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would simplify school finance by consolidating funding for categorical programs into targeted block grants to promote greater equity, increase local control, and improve instruction. The bill would also make the above-described provision relating to the expenditure of block grant funds inoperative on July 1, 2014.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact
2 legislation that would simplify school finance by consolidating
3 funding for categorical programs into targeted block grants to
4 promote greater equity, increase local control, and improve
5 instruction.

6 SEC. 2. Section 41500 of the Education Code is amended to
7 read:

8 41500. (a) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, a
9 school district and county office of education may expend in a
10 fiscal year up to 15 percent of the amount apportioned for the block
11 grants set forth in Article 3 (commencing with Section 41510),
12 Article 5 (commencing with Section 41530), Article 6
13 (commencing with Section 41540), or Article 7 (commencing with
14 Section 41570) for any other programs for which the school district
15 or county office is eligible for funding, including programs whose
16 funding is not included in any of the block grants established
17 pursuant to this chapter. The total amount of funding a school
18 district or county office of education may expend for a program
19 to which funds are transferred pursuant to this section shall not
20 exceed 120 percent of the amount of state funding allocated to the
21 school district or county office of education for purposes of that
22 program in a fiscal year. For purposes of this subdivision, “total
23 amount” means the amount of state funding allocated to a school
24 district or county office of education for purposes of a particular
25 program in a fiscal year, plus the amount transferred in that fiscal
26 year to that program pursuant to this section.

27 (b) A school district that transfers funding, pursuant to this
28 section, from the amount apportioned for the School and Library
29 Improvement Block Grant, as set forth in Article 7 (commencing
30 with Section 41570), shall utilize no less than 85 percent of the
31 amount remaining after the transfer for direct services to pupils.

32 (c) A school district and county office of education shall not,
33 pursuant to this section, transfer funds from Article 2 (commencing
34 with Section 41505) ~~and~~ or Article 4 (commencing with Section
35 41520).

1 (d) Before a school district or county office of education may
2 expend funds pursuant to this section, the governing board of the
3 school district or the county board of education, as applicable,
4 shall discuss the matter at a noticed public meeting.

5 (e) A school district shall track transfers made pursuant to this
6 section.

7 (f) *This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2014.*

O